

Keys of Spirituality



Vincentian Spirituality

St. Vincent de Paul Society

An average of only 5% of parishioners are intentional disciples—living out the words of Christ in their daily walks. We cannot make anyone become a disciple, but we can create an environment that is conducive to the growth of personal faith and discipleship.

Vincentians seek to draw closer to Christ in hopes that someday it will no longer be they who love, but Christ who loves through them. Vincentians draw near to Christ by serving the poor, aiming to show a glimpse of God's love to all they meet.

Vincentians dedicate themselves to living out the following keys of spirituality:

- To love God, our Father, with the sweat of our brow and the strength of our arms
- To see Christ in the poor and the poor in Christ
- To share the compassionate and liberating love of Christ the Evangelizer and Servant of the poor
- To heed the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Contact Us

District Council Office

520 Crescent Avenue
South Bend, IN 46617
574-234-6000

Donation/Home Pickup - Press 2
Emergency Food Assistance - Press 3

www.svdpsb.org

St. Vincent de Paul Resale Stores

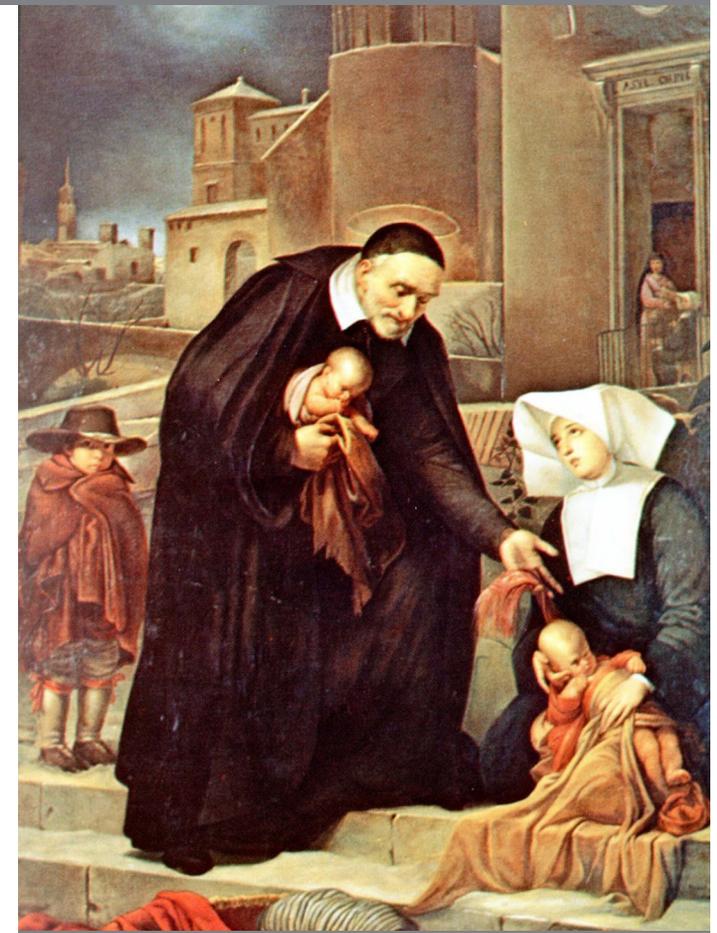
1827 N. Bendix Dr., South Bend
9:00am - 6:00pm

2302 South Bend Ave., South Bend
10:00am - 7:00pm

4644 W. Western Ave., South Bend
10:00am - 7:00pm

All locations closed on Sundays

For more information, visit our website.
www.svdpsb.org



"We cannot better assure our eternal happiness than by living and dying in the service of the poor, in the arms of Providence, and with genuine renouncement of ourselves in order to follow Jesus Christ."

- St. Vincent de Paul

“Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.” - Romans 5:1-2

BECOMING A VINCENTIAN

- Becoming a Vincentian is above all else a loving response to the call of Jesus Christ. Jesus loves each of us passionately and intimately. He is not far off in some high heaven but with us right here and right now.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a great gift to us. It is a sure way to draw closer to Jesus. Our founder, Frederic Ozanam said: “The Society has one goal: service to the poor and the sanctification of its members.”
- The Society provides three essential elements:
 - **Spirituality:** to bear witness for Christ and his Church by showing the faith of Christians.
 - **Friendship:** to bring together in community men and women of good will who pray together and encourage each other to draw closer to Jesus by serving him in the person of the poor.
 - **Service:** to establish personal contact between its members and those who suffer.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Visiting and dedicating themselves to the poor, whose faith and courage often teach Vincentians to live. Vincentians assume the needs of the poor as their own.
- Attending the meeting of the Conference or Council, where shared fraternal spirituality is a source of inspiration.
- Promoting a life of prayer and reflection, both at the individual and community level, sharing with their fellow members. Meditating on their Vincentian experiences offers them internal spiritual knowledge of themselves, others, and the goodness of God.
- Transforming their concern into action and their compassion into practical and effective love.

VINCENTIAN VIRTUES

- **Simplicity** - frankness, integrity, genuineness
- **Humility** - accepting the truth about our frailties, gifts, talents, and charism, yet knowing all that God gives us is for others and that we can achieve nothing of eternal value without His grace
- **Gentleness** - friendly assurance and invincible goodwill, which mean kindness, sweetness, and patience in our relationships with others
- **Selflessness** - dying to our ego with a life of self-sacrifice; members share their time, their possessions, their talents, and themselves in a spirit of generosity
- **Zeal** - a passion for the full flourishing and eternal happiness of every person